

REVISED

American Indians of Federally-recognized Indian nations have dual citizenship, both in the United States and within an American Indian nation. The political relations of American Indian individuals and nations are determined by treaties, Congressional Act, or Presidential Executive Order. There are over 560 Federally-recognized American Indian nations in the United States, and 109 in California. American Indian nations represent hundreds of cultures, languages, histories, and traditions. American Indian nations have government-to-government relations with the United States Federal government. This relationship requires specialized interagency coordination among County departments, as well as Federal and State offices, to address issues relating to the American Indian community. There is specific language within some Federal programs in the County of Los Angeles that require coordination with the American Indian community. These programs are available to the American Indian community because of the unique legal status of the American Indian people, and without the involvement of the American Indian community these programs are not available to the County of Los Angeles.

On December 17, 2002, the Board of Supervisors took the unique, historic step of instructing County Counsel, in consultation with the California Indian Legal Services, to develop language for the County to recognize the government-to-government relationship that exists between the Federal government and Federally-recognized

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MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
KNABE	_____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
DECEMBER 2, 2003
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Indian tribes. Since then, County Counsel has developed the language in consultation with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission, the Los Angeles County American Indian Children's Council, California Indian Legal Services, and the UCLA Native Nations Law and Policy Center.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD:

The Board of Supervisors and the County of Los Angeles adopt and implement the following language:

Los Angeles County recognition of government-to-government relationship between the United States of America and Federally-recognized American Indian tribes.

"There is a government-to-government relationship between the United States government and American Indian tribes which have been granted 'Federally-recognized' status. Determination of this status is solely within the jurisdiction of the Federal government. A list of such Federally-recognized tribes is set forth in Part 83 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

"As domestic dependent nations, Federally-recognized tribes exercise inherent sovereign powers over their members and territory. These powers include the right to function as a distinct political entity, enact laws, maintain law and order, utilize reservation resources for economic development, and secure the general health and welfare of the tribe.

"The United States continues to work with Federally-recognized tribes on a government-to- government basis to address issues concerning tribal self-governance, trust resources, and tribal treaty and other rights. This distinct governmental relationship has developed into an area of Federal law unique to American Indians. Ranging from issues such as child welfare to religious freedom, this law not only impacts the Federal government and American Indian nations, but State and local governments as well.

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~~————“The County recognizes the governmental relationship between the United States government and Federally recognized tribes. Accordingly, the County and its departments and agencies should consult with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission and the California Indian Legal Services when developing or implementing policies, regulations, or other initiatives which affect Federally-recognized tribes and/or their members residing in Los Angeles County.”~~

“The County recognizes the governmental relationship between the United States government and federally-recognized tribes. Although there are no federally-recognized tribes in the County at this time, it is possible that there may be such federal recognition in the future. Accordingly, the County and its departments and agencies should consult with the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission, and with American Indian community organizations as appropriate, when developing or implementing policies, regulations, or other initiatives affecting any tribe in the County with federally-recognized status, and/or its members.”

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YBB:MS:njr (Revised American Indian language motion 120203)